

Human and Community Services Division

Medicaid rules:

Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities rule hearing held 6/24/10.

Adoption of eligibility policy manuals into rule and special needs trust rules, both in draft.

Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities:

Medicaid for Workers with Disabilities, SB 119 from the 2009 session, was implemented on 7/1/2010.

This is an advantageous program for individuals age 16 or older who are disabled (or aged) and who work. The program allows workers with disabilities to accumulate more resources and acquire Medicaid coverage with less out-of-pocket expenses. 164 individuals received Medicaid through this program in the month of October 2010.

Social Security Extra Help:

Effective 1/1/2010, Medicare recipients who apply for Social Security Extra Help for assistance with their Medicare drug costs are also defined by federal law as applying for Medicare Savings Programs through Medicaid. Beginning in January 2010, Social Security Administration sends lists of applicants for Extra Help along with some data regarding their income and resources, and DPHHS is required to process each of these as Medicare Savings Programs applications. To date, Montana DPHHS has received 2311 'automatic' applications for Medicare Savings Programs to process through this mandate.

Special Medicare group serving people with Asbestos-related diseases:

To date, we have received approximately 34 direct applications for Medicare Savings Programs from people who are newly eligible for Medicare under this group. We have also received additional application information through Social Security via individuals applying for Social Security Extra Help.

House Joint Resolution 25, a study of the eligibility process for Medicaid long term care:

The white paper for the study has been completed and distributed. The report is available on the DPHHS website. Educational materials have been distributed to all long term care facilities, nursing home ombudsmen, Area Agencies on Aging, and to other interested parties, and are posted on the DPHHS website in the Senior & Long Term Care area of the site. A guidance document has been provided to all long term care facilities to aid them as well.

HMK Plus:

Since the Healthy Montana Kids Plan implemented in October 2009, HMK Plus (Medicaid) has gained nearly 15,000 children, which represents more than a 28% increase in Medicaid covered children in Montana. HMK Plus currently provides coverage for over 65,000 children.

General: OPAs continue to experience increases in workload and applications. Medicaid is now serving over 100,000 Montanans each month.